CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling discontinuous transmissions, comprising:

determining a voice activity level in a digitized audio signal;

generating a control signal based on the level of voice activity detected;

generating active vocoder frames at a predetermined rate in a transmitter if said control signal indicates a first level of speech activity;

generating inactive vocoder frames if said control signal indicates a second level of speech activity;

generating transition frames if said control signal indicates a transition from said first level to said second level, said transition frames comprising background noise information; and

generating a state vector corresponding to the vocoder frames, wherein the state vector is incremented only for a generated active or transition frame.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A discontinuous transmission controller, comprising:

a vocoder for generating active vocoder frames from a digitized audio signal at a predetermined output rate if speech is present, for generating inactive vocoder frames during periods of speech inactivity, for generating transition frames during transitions from speech activity to speech inactivity, said transition frames comprising background noise information, generating a state vector corresponding to the vocoder frames, wherein the state vector is incremented only for a generated active or transition vocoder frame.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling discontinuous transmissions, comprising:

determining a speech activity level in a digitized audio signal;

generating a control signal based on the determined speech activity level;

generating active vocoder frames in a transmitter if said control signal indicates active speech activity;

generating ~~no~~ inactive vocoder frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates inactive speech activity;

generating transition frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates a transition between said active speech activity and inactive speech activity, said transition frames comprising comfort information;

generating a state vector corresponding to the vocoder frames, wherein the state vector is incremented only for a generated active or transition frame.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said comfort information includes background noise information.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling discontinuous transmissions, comprising:

receiving digitized audio signal;

determining a speech activity level in the received digitized audio signal;

generating a control signal based on the determined speech activity level;

generating active vocoder frames in a transmitter if said control signal indicates active speech activity;

generating transition frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates a transition between said active speech activity and inactive speech activity;

incrementing a state vector for each generated active or transition vocoder frame;

generating ~~no~~ inactive vocoder frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates inactive speech activity; and

disabling the state vector for each inactive vocoder frame.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further including encrypting the generated active and transition vocoder frames.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling discontinuous transmissions, comprising:

means for determining a speech activity level in a digitized audio signal;

means for generating a control signal based on the determined speech activity level;

means for generating active vocoder frames in a transmitter if said control signal indicates active speech activity;

means for generating ~~no~~ inactive vocoder frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates inactive speech activity;

means for generating transition frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates a transition between said active speech activity and inactive speech activity, said transition frames comprising comfort information; and

means for generating a state vector corresponding to the vocoder frames, wherein the state vector is incremented only for a the generated active or transition frame.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said comfort information includes background noise information.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling discontinuous transmissions, comprising:

means for receiving digitized audio signal;

means for determining a speech activity level in the received digitized audio signal;

means for generating a control signal based on the determined speech activity level;

means for generating active vocoder frames in a transmitter if said control signal indicates active speech activity;

means for generating transition frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates a transition between said active speech activity and inactive speech activity;

means for incrementing a state vector for each generated active or transition vocoder frame;

means for generating ~~no~~ inactive vocoder frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates inactive speech activity; and

means for disabling the state vector for each inactive vocoder frame.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, further including encrypting the generated active and transition vocoder frames.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium embodying means for implementing a method for controlling discontinuous transmissions, the method comprising:

determining a speech activity level in a digitized audio signal;

generating a control signal based on the determined speech activity level;

generating active vocoder frames in a transmitter if said control signal indicates active speech activity;

generating ~~no~~ inactive vocoder frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates inactive speech activity;

generating transition frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates a transition between said active speech activity and inactive speech activity, said transition frames comprising comfort information;

generating a state vector corresponding to the vocoder frames, wherein the state vector is incremented only for a generated active or transition frame.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein said comfort information includes background noise information.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium embodying means for implementing a method for controlling discontinuous transmissions, the method comprising:

receiving digitized audio signal;

determining a speech activity level in the received digitized audio signal;

generating a control signal based on the determined speech activity level;

generating active vocoder frames in a transmitter if said control signal indicates active speech activity;

generating transition frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates a transition between said active speech activity and inactive speech activity;

incrementing a state vector for each generated active or transition vocoder frame;

generating ~~no~~ inactive vocoder frames in the transmitter if said control signal indicates inactive speech activity; and

disabling the state vector for each inactive vocoder frame.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 24, the method further including encrypting the generated active and transition vocoder frames.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)